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THE IRISH BOOK LOVER

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No. 3.

OUR WELCOME.

The exigencies of the holiday season compelling us to go to press rather early, prevented us acknowledging sooner the warm welcome our first number received on all hands. It was, if not, "Mille," at least "Cead failthe." Amongst the first—the great metropolitan organs of public opinion like the Morning Post and the Daily News, bade us a kindly word, whilst in Ireland, newspapers so widely divergent in their views as the Freeman's Journal and the Evening Telegraph, in Dublin, the Belfast News Letter, the Belfast Telegraph, and the Tyrone Constitution, united for once in welcoming our effort to place before the reading public a literary magazine elevated beyond the plane of party politics and to supply, in hackneyed parlance, a long-felt want. We were particularly gratified by a lengthy article in Seinn Feinn, from the pen of one of the ablest Irish bibliographers of the day, who writes under the pen name of "Sean Gall," and it shall be our endeavour to live up to the high ideal therein set forth. Others, such as The Northern Whig, The Irish Presbyterian, the Bookseller, the Book Exchange, the Cork Archæological Journal, and Book Auction Records were equally warm in their expressions of approbation, whilst individual scholars like Mr. Ribton Garstin and Ralph Thomas—names honoured in the bibliographical world, joined in the chorus. To each and all we return our acknowledgement and hearty thanks.

THE DUNCAIRN PRESS.

Since the appearance of Mr. Dix's article in our first number, we have been favoured with particulars of three additional volumes from this press. Mr. Burgoyne, the librarian of the Linen Hall Library, Belfast, informs us that the Lavens Ewart collection, now on permanent loan there, contains copies of the catalogue of pictures and Romney Robinson's speeches, Dr. Louis Macrory of Battersea, and Mr. F. J. Bigger, of Belfast, each have a copy of the picture catalogue, whilst Mr. R. M. Young, of Belfast, who also has a copy, writes that his father, the Right Hon. Robert Young, well remembers Edmund and Robert Macrory as schoolboys working the press, and generously

presents us with a proof sheet of the title-page of the library catalogue.

Following is a collation of each item:—

1. Catalogue of a collection of pictures at Duncairn, Belfast, the residence of A. J. Macrory, Esq.,—EM—/Printed at Duncairn/MDCCCLI/(Private)/verso of title-page blank, pp. 20, blank leaf, folds in fours. Colophon—Printed at Duncairn.

This was printed three times, one impression having for frontispiece a woodcut of Duncairn.

2. Speeches of the Rev. T. R. Robinson, D.D., P.R.I.A., and one of the V.P.'s of the British Association at the 22nd Annual Meeting held in September, 1852./Printed at Duncairn, 1852,/pp. 24, folds in fours.

3. Catalogue of Books/(authors alphabetical)/Edmund Macrory, Duncairn, Belfast./9½ in × 7½ in., single sheet.

There are five other items given by Cotton as printed at this press, and any information regarding them will be welcomed.

KEATINGE'S HISTORY OF IRELAND.

This valuable work existed long in MS copies before it was printed. Subjoined is a very brief list of the printed editions prior to 1870, giving only the place of publication, size and year. Nos. 9 and 11 I have never seen nor even traced in any library. If any of our readers can report copies of these editions, and give further particulars of them, I hope they will do so. Also I would like cleared up the correct date of the 1st edition, was it 1722 or 1723? I think the latter is correct and the former an error, but I have seen it given. No doubt some of these "editions" are merely re-issues or reprints of the first edition, in which the translation was by Dermot O'Connor, No. 7 was a new translation by William Halliday. In most of these editions only the English translations are given. There may be some other editions or issues prior to 1870, and if so, I would be glad to hear of them. A complete bibliography of an important and standard work, such as this, is desirable. Of course the recent edition published by the Irish Texts Society, begun by the late David Comyn and completed by Father Dineen, will be henceforth the standard edition of this great work.

E. R. Mc. C. DIX.

SHORT LIST OF EDITIONS.

1. Dublin, fol., 1723 (?1722); 2. London, fol., 1723; 3. Westminster, fol., 1726; 4. London, fol., 1732 (called "2nd edition, with appendix"); 5. London, fol. 1738 (called "3rd edition, with appendix"); 6. Dublin,

8vo., 1809; 7, Dublin, 8vo., 1811 (vol. 1 only); 8, Newry, 8vo., 1817 (2 vols.); 9, Dublin, — 1847; 10, Dublin, 8vo., 1854; 11, New York, — 1856; 12, New York, 8vo., 1857 (J. O'Mahony); 13, New York, 8vo., 1866.

IRELAND AND SECRET PRINTING.

Two statements made in connection with secret presses in England towards the close of the reign of Elizabeth, make mention of Ireland, in a way that sets one thinking. The first of these occurs in the examination of the men who were found printing the notorious Marprelate tracts in 1588-9. After a prolonged and exciting chase the press was finally captured at Manchester on August 14th, 1588, and the printer and his two assistants were carried to London. On their way the printer, John Hodgkins, tried to cheer up his companions, and amongst other things, said: "That after they were delivered he would again set them to print in Ireland." [William Pierce, "An Historical Introduction to the Marprelate Tracts," p. 338.]

The second statement is found in certain evidence put forward in 1603, by a London printer named William Jones, to prove the existence of a Jesuit press. [See Library, April, 1907.] He declared that a printer named Henry Oven escaped from the White Lyon prison in Southwark and went into Staffordshire, where he continued printing until some of his accomplices were captured, when he again fled, but was captured "as he was flying with his press and letter, so it is said, into Ireland."

Here then we have two statements, suggesting Ireland as a place where secret printing might be carried on, and they further suggest the possibility, that secret presses were at work there in the sixteenth century. Yet so far as we know, there is nothing to support the suggestion. There is, it is true, in the British Museum, one book, John Olde's "Acquital or Purgation of Edward Vith and the Church of England, of heresy or sedition," which bears the imprint: "Imprinted at Waterford, 7th November, 1555," but this has generally been received by bibliographers as a fictitious imprint.

A glance at Mr. Arber's "Transcript" will show that there were more anonymous books, some with certainly fictitious imprints printed between 1550 and 1603. The mysterious press of Hugh Singleton for example, has never yet been located. It certainly was not in Rome, as some of the imprints declare. It would have been much easier for him to have taken his press over to Ireland, where he might have taken refuge with Humphrey Powell, who was already there.

At any rate when one considers, (1) The nearness of Ireland to England, (2) the constant intercourse between, not only Ireland and England, but Ireland and the Continent, it seems a strange thing, that no secret presses have ever yet been traced to Ireland.

HENRY R. PLOMER.

REVIEWS.

The Georgian Society. Records of Eighteenth Century Domestic Architecture and Decoration in Dublin. Volume 1. Printed for the Society at the Dublin University Press, by Ponsonby and Gibbs, 1909. This work, of which only 300 copies have been printed, will be alike useful and interesting to Antiquarians and Genealogists. It is issued in a plain serviceable binding, having an illustration on the cover, of a door knocker, from No. 86, St. Stephen's Green. It contains a list of members, and 101 well executed plates, supplemented with admirable notes by Mr. W. G. Strickland. Of the index we venture to think that greater utility might result if all the names had been placed therein. The Society was inaugurated on 21st February, 1908, and an annual volume (issued to subscribers only), is promised, which will contain "as complete a collection of such artistic work as the support given to the movement may warrant."

From the preface we note that the original drawings and photographs will be mounted and labelled, and presented when the Society ceases to work, to some Irish public body, which will undertake to preserve them and make them available for future reference. E.J.B.

It is a pleasant recollection of the present reviewer that he once heard the late Lord Russell, of Killowen, then in the zenith of his powers, refer to the dispossessed Celtic inhabitants of Ulster, whom he had known in his youth, in words that have clung to his memory since: "They were called 'the mountainy men,' for the rich valleys and the fertile plains were not for them," and the fine voice faltered and a tear glistened in the eye. It was with such thoughts one took up this handsome volume—"The Mountainy Singer," by Seosamh MacCathmhaoil (Maunsel, Dublin.) Here we have a descendant of those very men who refused to go to Connaught—or the other place, but clung to their bare hillsides and their ancient faith, and well and sweetly he sings in spirited cadences the legend, customs and superstitions that yet linger amongst his own folk. Some of these poems have appeared in earlier volumes and some set to traditional airs have delighted London drawing-rooms. This judicious selection—

the cream of the author's work heretofore—long may he continue is sufficient to place him high in the ranks of contemporary singers. The author has recently been holiday-making "in Ould Donegal," about which he has recorded his impressions with a view to publication later on. We have been privileged to read a portion of the MS, and we can assure our readers that as word-pictures by a true artist they are entitled to a place beside his poems, and that is the highest praise our humble judgment can accord.

J. S. C.

FORTHCOMING BOOKS.

Messrs. Longman announce a volume entitled: "Essays Relating to Ireland." Bibliographical, historical, and topographical, by the late C. Litton Falkiner, whose lamented death in an Alpine accident last year, robbed us of one of our most indefatigable explorers in the bye-ways of Anglo-Irish literature. When so suddenly called away, Mr. Falkiner had just commenced in the "Saturday Review," a series of articles dealing with the old Irish cities, but had only finished those on Kilkenny and Armagh, which will doubtless be included in the forthcoming volume. His earlier "Studies in Irish History and Biography," 1902, and "Illustrations of Irish History and Topography," 1904, issued by the same publishers are well known and valuable works. Mr. Falkiner's fine library was dispersed by auction in Dublin on the 4th and 5th of May last by Messrs. Bennett.

Mr. Murray announces a "Life of Sir William Russell," the famous war correspondent, based on his private correspondence and diaries and other hitherto unpublished documents, by J. B. Atkins, with portraits, 8vo. "Billy" Russell, as he was affectionately known by his compeers, was born at Lilyvale, Co. Dublin, in 1821, and educated at Geoghagan's Academy and T.C.D. A delightful story-teller, the writer once heard him relate how he became a journalist quite by accident. His brother-in-law, who represented the "Times" in Ireland, was taken ill on the eve of an election in Longford, in 1841, when the brothers White, sons of the famous bookseller, Luke, had their election challenged by Anthony Lefroy. "My brother-in-law says, "Billy, you've got to report this election for the "Times!" Well, I was under twenty, and had never written a line for publication in my life, but my Irish wit told me that in an Irish election in those days most of the free and independent electors had to come to hospital. So I sat there until they all came in to get their heads bandaged, and got quite a dramatic account of it all, and posted off to London with it.

When I got to the "Times" office, and was waiting in a dark passage, a man came out of a room and asked me, "Are you the chap that wrote this?" And I said, "I am, Sir, but it wasn't my own fault, and I'll apologise!" This was the beginning of Russell's long engagement on the "Thunderer" which he represented all over the globe. His only novel "The Adventures of Dr. Brady," founded more or less upon his own experiences, is a good story, but was a financial failure, for Tinsley, its publisher, said, "I sprang thirteen hundred pounds to Billy Russell for his 'Doctor Brady' expecting that I was going to get another 'Charles O'Malley,' but it didn't come off." But his voluminous correspondence of over thirty years was all re-published with more success. As his old journal said on his death, "he had his full share of troubles, but nothing ever dimmed his cherry brightness and genial Hibernian humour."

Messrs. Macmillan announce the following:—

The Life of William Thomson, Baron Kelvin of Largs. By Silvanus P. Thompson, D.Sc., F.R.S. With numerous Photogravure Portraits and other illustrations. 2 vols. 8vo. Lord Kelvin's Early Home Life. Being the Recollections of his Sister, the late Mrs. Elizabeth King. With Illustrations. 8vo

These intimate family recollections of the early days of Lord Kelvin in Belfast and Glasgow, have been arranged by the Editor as far as possible in chronological order. Though primarily written and collected for private circulation, it has been thought that they would prove of interest to a wider public.

Robert Emmet. A Historical Romance. By Stephen Gwynn, M.P.

Extra Crown 8vo. Gilt top. 6s.

Robert Emmet, the hero of Mr. Stephen Gwynn's new historical romance is, of course, a historic personage, and the book is nothing other than an episode of history related in the form of a novel. All the characters bear their real names: the heroine of that disastrous tragedy is in the book, as in reality, Sarah Curran, daughter of the famous orator; and Mr. Gwynn affirms that no incident has been invented save in one case where the facts cannot be ascertained. He has based his story on materials, especially secret papers of the time, which have never before been at the disposal of any biographer of Emmet: and apart from its interest as the study of one of Ireland's

popular heroes, and as the recital of a famous love-story, the book gives a clearer and more authentic account of the 1803 rebellion than has hitherto been procurable.

A literary work by the late Father Tyrrell, entitled: "Versions and Perversions from Heine and others," will be published shortly by Mr. Elkin Mathews; whilst a biographical memoir of him is being prepared by his literary executrix, Miss Maud Petre, of Pulborough, who will be glad to see any letters from him.

Thomas O'Maille has been invited by the British Museum authorities to undertake the classification of Old, Middle, and Modern Irish manuscripts in the Library. Mr. O'Maille has made special researches in Celtic philology, and is about to publish a treatise on Irish Grammar.

Messrs. Mills and Boon announce "Home Life in Ireland," by Robert Lynd, a clever young Belfast man, on the staff of the "Daily News." The work will be 8vo, illustrated, price 7s. 6d. and Messrs. Methuen promise a new sporting story by those laughter-making ladies, who try to conceal their identity under the pen-names of Somerville and Ross.

GOSSIP.

We welcome with pleasure the resuscitation of *An Leabarlann* after a suspended animation of a couple of years. Well and flourishing it looks, too, more power to it! It is one of the finest bibliographical journals extant. We know no better work in that particular field than that of Messrs. Lyster and Condon's.

The supplement containing the letters written by John O'Donovan from County Down in 1834, is an exceedingly valuable work. Selections have already appeared in Father O'Laverty's "Diocese of Down and Connor," and in Thomas Fitzpatrick's articles in the "Irish News," but this is the first time they have been given in extenso. We wish it every success financially, which we are glad to see it is attaining. We have all the love and admiration for it that the small boy has for a big brother.

Marsh's Library in Dublin has recently been entrusted with the care of a very large number of rare and valuable old volumes from the Diocesan Library, Cashel. Being mainly liturgical and theological, they there find a suitable resting-place, and are, of course, rendered much more useful in being more accessible to students. Some time, however, must elapse before they are catalogued.

Mr. H. de Vere Stackpoole is, as his name implies, an Irishman, who is rapidly coming to the front as a novelist. "I am Irish," he recently told an interviewer, "and was born in Ireland, but I have French blood in me on my mother's side." He has wandered half over the world always with a book in his pocket. It is not generally known that Mr. Stackpoole studied at St. Mary's Hospital, London, and actually qualified for the medical profession. He turns his professional knowledge to good account in his latest romance with a purpose, "The Pools of Silence," a vivid, tropical romance.

A correspondent writes:—"Your article on the Beaufoy Sale and the prices realised thereat, induced me to look up the sale catalogue of a similar collection dispersed over half a century ago, viz.: that of Crofton Croker, the well-known antiquary and miscellaneous writer, which came to the hammer at Puttick and Simpson's in December, 1854. This collection contained many historical and topographical works, manuscripts and books of cuttings, but the prices realised were in many cases only as shillings to pounds nowadays. Many score items evidently obtained no biddings at all, and were lumped together with the succeeding ones, and the entries of "Money, 6d.," follow each other with alarming rapidity and indicate the good fortune of the private buyer. One volume of MS., labelled the "Conway Papers," John Wilson Croker, the namesake and patron of Crofton, commissioned the auctioneers to purchase, but this was withdrawn, and Miss Power, the daughter of the music publisher, bought for £7 10s., a bundle of over forty letters from Tom Moore, the previous publication of which had led to prolonged litigation, whilst the incomplete MS. 36 pages of the "Apostacy of Newell," the informer of '98 realised sixpence! Sotheran and Quaritch were then as now to the front, whilst amongst the private buyers occur the names of Irish collectors, like Hyndman, of Belfast, Dr. Neligan, of Dublin, and Windele, the antiquary and historian of Cork. The whole only realised a total of £710, and one can safely say that if offered nowadays, with the American buyer so much in evidence, it would realise twenty times that amount.

[It would be interesting to trace, if possible, this MS. of Newell. The book bears the imprint of London, but Dr. Madden declared it was printed in Belfast by Thomas Storey.—Ed.]

In "Blackwood's Magazine" for 1907, will be found two short stories dealing with Ulster life, entitled: "Nabob Castle," and "The

Last of the O'Haras." They are signed, "Andrew James," a *nom de guerre*, which covers the identity—I think I betray no confidence in stating it—of James Andrew Strahan, LL.D., a Belfast man, just appointed professor of Jurisprudence in the Queen's University there. I understand that it is his intention to write a few more tales in the same style, sufficient to make a volume. I hope that is so, for they are two of the best Ulster stories that have appeared for some years. I should have said the scene of both stories is in the County Antrim. Mr. Strahan is a clever member of a clever family, his elder brother, the late Dr. Sam. Strahan, after gaining honours in medicine and law, turned his attention to novel writing with a considerable measure of success. His "Dead yet Speaketh" was "a shilling shocker," issued from the house of Arrowsmith of Bristol, the birth place of that class of fiction, and the second was "The Resident Magistrate," dealing with the troubled times of the Land League. It is gratifying to one to know that the famous house of Blackwood, still flourishing after a century's existence, finds it to its interest to keep up an Ulster connection—a connection dating at least from the early "thirties" of last century, when Professor Wilson the genial "Christopher North" warmly welcomed "The Forging of the Anchor" and "The Wet Wooing," the earliest efforts of a youth who was afterwards to gain fame as Sir Samuel Ferguson, and sustained in later years by the effusions of the fine lyric genius of the lady who chooses to be known as "Moirá O'Neill."

JOHN SYNGE'S FUTURE FAME

In another hundred years from now, this year of centenaries will be celebrated for its own events. People will be saying, "It is a hundred years to-day since Swinburne died, that exquisite lyric poet whose verses still sing themselves in every heart; a hundred years since Meredith died, that far-seeing writer who left us so fine a picture of nineteenth century life. . . And perhaps among them all will be some close lover of literature who will add: "Yes, and that year, too, a hundred years ago, saw the death of a young poet named John Synge, who lived only to the age so often fatal to genius, and left behind him only a few short plays, a prose book on some desolate island off the Irish coast—at that time still subject to England—and this slim volume of verses, now very rare, which I bought for twopence on a second-hand bookstall in Park Lane." Thereon he will produce a little grey book with canvas back, under fifty pages in all, but bearing

on its title page the valued mark of the "Cuala Press, Dundrum," as he will carefully point out, and containing a preface by William Yeats, with some account of the author's personality and genius.—THE NATION.

SOME MISSING BOOKS.

The Irish collector occasionally meets references to books on Irish subjects of which he is unable to locate a single copy in any public library. Perhaps the publication in the "Irish Book Lover" of occasional lists of such books would lead to their discovery.

The following items, for example, appear to be very scarce:—

(A.) Charles Wilson—Poems in Irish with English translations 4to. Dublin, 1782 [or 1792.]

The author was a brilliant young Irishman who went to London to make his fortune by literary work and "went under." His work is referred to by O'Daly, O'Reilly, Hardiman, and Drummond.

(B.) O'Gallagher's "Irish Sermons." Dublin. 1740. (Vide O'Reilly's Irish Writers. 1820. p. CCXXVII.)

(C.) Acts of Three Theological Virtues in Irish. Rome. 1764. (Vide Dublin reprint, circa. 1780, in T.C.D.)

(D.) 1. Timothy O'Sullivan's (Tadhg Gaolach) "Pious Miscellany" in Irish. Limerick ante, 1832.

2. Another edition. Clonmel. circa. 1804-1811.

3. Another edition. Clonmel. 1816.

4. Any edition prior to 6th Ed. (Cork. 1817.)

[Vide Father Dineen's Edition of T. O'Sullivan's Poems. (Dublin. 1903), and bibliographical article in "Irisleabhar no Gaedhilge." Dublin, December, 1905.]

SEAMUS UA CASAIDE.

QUERY.

Keane, John F. I would like to know something of John F. Keane—the nautical writer—author of "On Blue Water." Perhaps some of your readers could give some information as to his life. J. Hill Gibson, M.D. (There is a rollicking account of him in Edmund Downey's "Twenty Years Ago." pp.50-57. Keane also wrote "Mere Shakings," "Six Months in Meccah," "My Journey in Medinah," and "Three Years of a Wanderer's Life.")

Mr. Edmund Downey, the well-known novelist, kindly writes us as follows:—I don't think there is much to add to my brief account in "Twenty Years Ago." Keane has always been a wanderer. When he

was completing his "Three Years of a Wanderer's Life," he met with a terrible accident—he sustained a bad fracture of the base of the skull. Sir Joseph (now Lord) Lister, pulled him through miraculously. Subsequently Keane went to Australia. He returned to England about a dozen years ago, and after remaining in London for about a year he was off to Australia again. The last time I heard from him was about three years ago. He was then in Queensland. I think he sent a manuscript to Mr. J. B. Pinker, the literary agent, about that time. Keane was born in Calcutta, the son of the senior canon of the Cathedral there. He belonged to a well-known Clare family, a member of which Marcus Keane wrote a rather remarkable work "The Towers and Temples of Ancient Ireland" (4to Dublin, 1867). Keane had a brother—also Marcus—a doctor who practised in London for some time, but falling into bad health, he went to South America, and, I think, died there.

THE POST BAG.

Dear Sir,—Might I make a suggestion to be submitted in your next No. There are two works, indispensable to the student of Irish history, which are exceedingly hard to pick up, and when met with, can only be had at a very high price, viz., Webb's "Compendium of Irish Biography," and Madden's "United Irishmen." I was given to understand some three or four months before Mr. Webb's death that he was engaged in revising and enlarging the work for the purpose of bringing out a second edition, but from what I have since learned, I scarcely think he had made a beginning. Would it not be possible (having, of course, got the necessary permission from his executors), to get some enterprising publisher here, or in London, to publish a second edition of it, and also a new edition of Dr. Madden's "Lives and Times of the United Irishmen." The "Irish Book-Lover" should prove a suitable medium by which to find a sufficiently large number of subscribers to encourage a publishing firm to make the venture.

Yours sincerely,

W. B. DOYLE.

(A capital suggestion. Perhaps Messrs. Maunsell, who have recently published the "Memoirs of Myles Byrne," and who are issuing the "Autobiography of Wolfe Tone," would consider it favourably. D. J. O'Donoghue would be just the man to edit "Webb," and no one alive knows more concerning the United Irishmen than F. J. Bigger.)

Sir,—You are hardly up-to-date in your interesting article on Henry Bradshaw. It will be welcome news to you, no doubt, to learn that his fine collection in the University Library, is now, at last, being specially catalogued by the able librarian and bibliographer, Mr. Charles Sayle. Yours, etc., CANTAB.

Sir,—Could any reader oblige with the present addresses of Mr. Brien O'Looney, the Irish Scribe, and Miss Letitia MacClintock, authoress of "A Boycotted Household." London, 1881.

Yours, A. P. G.

Sir,—There is a copy of the third item mentioned by Mr. Plomer at p. 16, "A Plain Discovery," etc., in the Down and Connor Diocesan Library in Belfast. It is in quarto, pp. XV. × 291, printed for the author 1663. Bound up with it is "An Answer to Griffith Williams, Lord Bishop of Ossorie."

The author says, by way of apology for the book being unlicensed, that he had no powerful friend to present his petition to the King for leave to print it. He rather quaintly remarks: "I can hardly procure money for its printing," and again, "My book is swelled bigger already than I intended it at first, and although it be but small, yet it is bigger than I can well spare money to pay for the printing."

BIBLIO.

CATALOGUE.

Mr. N. Massey, Patrick Street, Cork, sends us a most remarkable catalogue of Irish books. It contains over 3,000 volumes, dealing with practically every district "from Giant's Causeway to Cape Clear," as Mickey Free sings, and embraces history, poetry, topography, biography, folk-lore and autograph letters of celebrities. It would be impossible to do full justice to it in any notice short of reprinting the whole. It must be seen to be appreciated. We have already "sampled" it and can bear personal testimony to the rarity and condition of the various items.

All communications—articles not accepted will be returned—to be addressed: The Editor, "Irish Book Lover," c/o The Publishers, Messrs. Whyte and Salmond, The Manor House, Kensal Green, London.

